



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 156

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JULY 20, 2010

No. 107

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, from whom we come and to whom we go at last, quiet our spirits and give us the grace to faithfully serve You during these challenging times. Lead our Senators to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly before You. May they offer to You their bodies, minds, and spirits in service, that they may fulfill Your purpose for humanity. Lord, give them joyful and dauntless hearts, prepared for surprises and ready always for fresh opportunities. Infuse them with the belief that You can accomplish what seems to be humanly impossible.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 20, 2010.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. SHAHEEN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, following any leader remarks, there will be a period of morning business. Senators will be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each. That will be until 12:30 p.m. today. The time will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. The majority will control the first 30 minutes, the Republicans will control the next 30 minutes.

The Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. for our weekly caucus meetings. At 2:15 p.m., CARTE GOODWIN of West Virginia will be sworn in as Senator from West Virginia to replace Senator Byrd. Then, at 2:30 p.m., there will be a cloture vote with respect to H.R. 4213, legislation extending unemployment insurance benefits.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, later today, the Senate will vote to extend Federal unemployment benefits to millions of Americans who are out of

work and struggling to make ends meet in a terrible recession.

Ordinarily, this is not a controversial piece of legislation. Everyone agrees we should help people who are struggling to get back on their feet and keep food on the table. Unfortunately, the President has decided to turn this debate into a political exercise.

In his weekly radio address over the weekend and again yesterday at the White House, the President accused Republicans of doing something we have not done. In doing so, he cheapens political discourse and does a disservice to the people this bill is meant to help.

As a former Senator, the President is well aware of how the Senate works. He knew today's vote to extend these benefits had already been scheduled days before he told the Nation, in two national broadcasts, that Republicans were holding it up. He also knew it would pass. But he intentionally implied otherwise, leaving the public without all the facts.

So here are the facts: Republicans support extending benefits to the unemployed. As the President himself said yesterday, we have repeatedly voted for similar bills in the past, and we are ready to support one now. What we do not support—and we make no apologies for this—is borrowing tens of billions of dollars to pass this bill at a time when the national debt is spinning completely out of control.

That is why Republicans have proposed an alternative bill five times that would enable us to extend these benefits without adding a nickel to the debt—a bill Democrats have repeatedly rejected.

There should be no doubt as to what constitutes fiscal responsibility in this debate. Last November, the President himself described a bill to extend unemployment benefits as fiscally responsible because it did not add to the debt. So according to the President's own logic, Democrats who vote to pass this bill and add nearly \$34 billion more

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S6001